

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00369 101024Z

13

ACTION CEQ-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EPA-01 OES-03 RSC-01 /013 W

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P 101010Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7219

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 0369

DEPT PASS TO COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJ: CHEMICAL BANNING

REF: STATE 2816

SUMMARY: EMBOFFS HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE ARE NOW NO REGULATORY MEASURES ON USE OR MANUFACTURE OF PHTHALIC ACID ESTERS (PAE) IN JAPAN, ALTHOUGH SUCH MEASURES ARE A POSSIBILITY. SURVEYS OF THE EXTENT OF PAE POLLUTION ARE UNDERWAY AND SOME VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. END SUMMARY.

1. PHTHALIC ACID ESTERS HAVE CHARACTERISTICS SIMILAR TO PCB'S, FACT WHICH HAS LED TO MUCH DISCUSSION IN JAPAN AS TO THEIR SAFETY, PARTICULARLY FOR USE IN PACKAGING FOOD OR MEDICINE. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) EXCELLENT REVIEW OF PAE POLLUTION SITUATION IN JAPAN. JOURNAL ENTITLED "ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ENGINEERING" DEVOTED ITS SEPTEMBER 1974 ISSUE TO THIS SUBJECT, FEATURING A SPECIAL COLLECTION OF EIGHT ARTICLES ENTITLED "POLLUTION BY PHTHALIC ACID ESTERS AND COUNTERMEASURES THERETO." EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT BY POUCH.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) THAT MHW AND VINYL CHLORIDE MANUFACTURERS HAVE AGREED ON CERTAIN VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PAE IN FOOD PACKAGING. EMBASSY WILL REPORT MORE DETAILS OF THESE RESTRICTIONS WHEN OBTAINED.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 00369 101024Z

STRICTIONS WHEN OBTAINED.

3. EA IS NOW CONDUCTING SURVEY OF AMOUNT OF PAE POLLUTION IN JAPAN, WITH RESULTS EXPECTED IN SPRING. MHW HAS SECURED FUNDS FOR ITS OWN SURVEY, WHICH IT PLANS TO BEGIN IN NEW FISCAL YEAR (AFTER APRIL 1). MHW POINTED OUT THAT ONLY TWO TO THREE PERCENT OF PAE PRODUCED IN JAPAN IS USED IN FOOD PACKAGING.

HODGSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHEMICALS, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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